



**THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

October 15, 2019

A meeting of the Pierce County Thun Field Advisory Commission (TFAC) was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Civil Air Patrol building, Thun Field, 16915 – 103rd Ave. E., Puyallup, WA 98374.

**I. Call to Order & Welcome**

Chair Doug Miller called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

TFAC VOTING MEMBERS	
Present:	Doug Miller, Chair John Hurlbut, Vice Chair Mike Thompson Marshall Collins J. Keith Kemper Lyle Sindlinger
Excused:	Andrew Karlsson
TFAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Present:	Nichole Weber, SHAC; Dave Morell, Councilmember
Excused:	
PIERCE COUNTY STAFF	
Present:	Anne-marie Marshall-Dody, Cindy Willis
VISITORS	
Present:	Seven members of the public signed the attendance sheet.

**II. Approval of Meeting Summaries**

Motion (Sindlinger/Hurlbut) passed unanimously to approve the July 16, 2019 meeting summary as amended.

### III. Reports

- O&M Report – Anne-marie said we continue to take care of noxious weeds. We’re working with the contractor to finalize the walk-through with building inspectors for the hangar roofs the first week of November; we’re getting a guarantee on the product and will keep an eye on it. This week’s weather should help us determine if the leaks are fixed. We also have other hangars with leaks and are trying to get bids from a roofing contract. John Hurlbut asked about warranty on installation, not just the materials; Anne-marie didn’t know, but said she will check. The gates are about to be repaired; we had a bee problem to fix before gate repair could occur. There are big patches of fencing where the whole section must be replaced. We found the leak that was causing water bills to be so high. Lissa sent a picture of water flowing. We replaced the pipe from the meter to the first repair site – over 50’ long. We haven’t had a full cycle of billing yet, but we hope that did the trick. Lissa said the leak was over by her old office where a patch was previously done. The fences being repaired are in the SW corner, in the gravel parking lot on the south end, and one on 103<sup>rd</sup>. Gates being repaired are by Spencer, SpanaFlight, the CAP, and restaurant south and north. Lyle Sindlinger asked if the new hangar doors going up are personal or County-owned doors. Anne-marie said we don’t have money for doors right now. A County property sale must occur before we can do that project. If the tenant understands that the door may have to come out at his own expense, a privately-owned door may be installed. Mike Thompson asked about a standardized plan. Anne-marie said that’s ideal, but we couldn’t do that to meet the needs of tenants. Mike asked if they are getting building permits and inspections for the door installations; Anne-marie will check. Keith Kemper asked about hiring of an Airport Manager; Anne-marie said Rod is starting on December 16; he has to relocate. Debi Ross thinks you’ll be pleased—Rod is very experienced. Toby and Debi found it difficult to cut the candidate list to nine for interviews due to the deep pool of qualified applicants. We also had good applicants for the Administrator position; Randy is coming from Texas in mid-November; most of his experience is in maritime and ferry work.

### IV. Old Business

- 2020-21 budget – Anne-marie said the Exec has presented his budget. Each division began budget prep in March; those were turned into the dept. director who made his recommendation, and that was sent to the Exec who created his budget. He presented his budget to the Council and they will amend and adopt it in November. This is a big transition year for us with a biennial budget. We hope to have mini-version of the budget in the next cycle to add those items we couldn’t foresee and to revisit decisions made now. Projects in the CIP section for airports reflect projects identified in the Master Plan; those tend to be what they keep. We’re unsure whether funding for an FAA match grant is included; it’s hard to walk away from an FAA grant. Anne-marie said our airports are 94-96% full for tiedowns and hangars; there’s also been an increase in take-offs and landings.

Jay is out on leave for some hand surgery; he’s part of the Airport & Ferry reorganization and is being reassigned to a different division; his focus will be on ferry maintenance. Nichole Weber asked about electric ferries. Anne-marie said we researched it; the most efficient way is to build them from scratch rather than retrofit, but the cost/benefit is difficult. The County is determining whether biodiesel is the best way to go.

Anne-marie asked the TFAC for their top 3-5 budget priorities. Debi Ross left no list of projects or issues to prioritize. The TFAC said they need a list from which to work. Keith said the FAA hasn't approved the last chapter of the Master Plan yet; Anne-marie said the FAA is short-staffed. John said it would be reckless to move ahead without their approval.

Mike said in the past, administrators have said we need to get priorities in by March; isn't that late? Anne-marie said we start talking in March and turn in our proposed budget in June. Perhaps TFAC's list could be included in a supplemental budget.

Anne-marie said in 2020, we expect completion of the Master Plan and an environmental assessment. If we get funding from the sale of a property (gravel pit at 224<sup>th</sup>), there will be t-hangar roof improvements. In 2021, we'll finish the t-hangar roof improvements. Until the Master Plan is complete, the next project in 2022 is obstruction removal. Lyle suggested that getting Jet A fuel could be part of our 3-5 priorities.

#### **V. Visitors and Petitions**

Keith asked if the restaurant was open for breakfast; yes, weekends starting at 9:00 AM. It's still limited to age 21 and over. Rod Wetherbee said he didn't realize they were going to limit the age, but Top Gun is listening to suggestions. The #1 complaint is that kids aren't allowed; Rod suggested complaining tactfully for the best results. Marshall Collins suggested they could exclude minors after 9 PM. Rod said he can't tell him how to run his business. Top Gun has talked about enclosing the deck and creating a viewing deck and teaming up with the TFAC; this might be an opportunity. They've already started the design process. Perhaps kids could eat out there. If the TFAC wants to pursue a partnership with them, move quickly. Nichole said it must be approved through the FAA and be educational. She will contact Top Gun. Lissa Smith said did they apply for a 7460 with the FAA; that applies to anything on the flight line. Buildings over a certain height must be approved by the FAA. Mike asked about lighting flags on a crane; anyone who operates equipment should know to light the flag. Lissa said they've been told, but that the company isn't getting the message. Rod said lighting is a federal requirement, not a County requirement—call OSHA or L&I to report it; they'll shut them down within a few hours.

Rod talked about the hangar roof situation; he gave Debi a contact for a consultant. He suggested we spend money for a consultant and remove the flashing because the hangar roofs aren't installed correctly. The manufacturer won't warranty it; get a consultant prior to accepting the job. Rod suggested Weatherhold, BT&R, and some others.

Rod said he's renting the Talon hangar; the heaters are broken, and the asphalt needs work so that it doesn't chip propellers; it needs to be replaced, not fixed. He'd be willing to do it and get reimbursed; let him know. There was a fuel safety meeting in the restaurant; Top Gun was under the impression they were required to hold it there. Rod offered his facilities for such meetings.

Steve Smith suggested that we should have a diagram of the airport with building heights so we know how high buildings can be. Shade it with different colors. It would clarify things for everyone, including County inspectors.

Doug said spill kits still haven't been installed; he asked for an update. Anne-marie has spoken with Jay about them; we don't want them to be stolen and need a way to secure them.

Mike asked when the Airport Rules & Regulations will be updated next; we were promised speed limit signs. Anne-marie said they were adopted two years ago and are reviewed every few years. Mike said there's a noise problem on the airport caused by pilots or mechanics running high power engines in the ramp and taxiway areas. That's what the runup area is for; there should be an RPM limit on the taxiways and ramps.

Ed Hrivnak is a helicopter operator who would like to see Jet A at PLU; he has three customers who would love Jet A. He trains here, but buys his fuel at Auburn. He has had instructors ask about his flying on the other side of the field—that's a must for helicopters to go opposite traffic. This airfield is not set up for helicopters; he's tried various landing sites. Lissa said there have been quite a few helicopters on the west side in the last few weeks. Some instructors don't understand the regulations for helicopters.

Doug said they've heard of instances of individuals at Top Gun drinking on the deck and yelling at pilots. Rod said when that happens, express your concerns to Top Gun and they'll stop it and kick out the offenders.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

<b>TO CONTACT THE THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION regarding any items on this agenda or any other issues:</b>	
<b>Call:</b>	(253) 798-7250 (Airport Administration)
<b>Fax:</b>	(253) 798-2740
<b>Mail:</b>	Thun Field Advisory Commission 2702 South 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 109 Tacoma, WA 98409-7322
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:pctfac@co.pierce.wa.us">pctfac@co.pierce.wa.us</a>
<b>Submit comments online:</b>	<a href="http://www.piercecountywa.org/thunfield">www.piercecountywa.org/thunfield</a> (click on "contact us")